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REPORTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES:
ECONOMIC QUESTIONS, ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS

Human settlements

Extract from the report of the Commission on Human Settlements at its sixteenth session

The attached text presents resolutions 16/1 and 16/2 adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements at its sixteenth session and is submitted to the Council for its information. The complete report of the Commission will be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/52/8 and Add.1) and will include the report of the Commission on the progress made in the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000. The report will be before the Assembly for its consideration.

GE.97-62661 (E)

A. Resolutions

1. Resolutions requiring action by the General Assembly

16/1. Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 50/99 of 20 December 1995 on the work of the Commission on Human Settlements and on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, and 51/177 of 16 December 1996 on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), 1/

Recalling also relevant Commission resolutions, including resolution 15/1 of 1 May 1995;

Bearing in mind that the Habitat Agenda 2/ incorporates the principles of enablement and participation contained in the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, 3/

Bearing in mind also the relevant aspects of Agenda 21, 4/ adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Programme of Action 5/ adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development and the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, 6/ the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Programme of Action, 7/ adopted at the World Summit for Social Development, and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights, 8/

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996 (A/CONF.165/14).

2/ Ibid., chap.I, resolution 1, annex II.

3/ General Assembly resolution 43/181 annex.

4/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

5/ Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (A/CONF.171/13 and Add.1), chap. I, resolution 1.

6/ Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (A/CONF.166/9), chap. I. resolution 1, annex I.

7/ Ibid, annex II.

8/ Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24) (Part I) chap. III.

Recognizing that the operational focus of the Global Strategy is on action to be taken at the local and national levels with the participation of all partners in civil society and that regular monitoring of the impact of the national shelter strategy on the shelter situation in Member States is a crucial aspect of the implementation of the Strategy,

Taking note with satisfaction that many Governments have enhanced their existing national shelter strategies based on the principles of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and incorporated them into their national Habitat II plans of action,

Also noting with satisfaction that the Urban and Housing Indicators are being developed in over one hundred and ten countries,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, 9/

1. Adopts the fifth report of the Commission on Human Settlements to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 10/ and the proposed plan of action and timetable for the period 1998-1999 for the Global Strategy, 11/ and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to transmit them through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly in accordance with General Assembly resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988;

2. Recommends that Governments extend, where appropriate, the application of the indicators to all cities and rural settlements;

3. Recommends Governments to prepare annual progress reports as a part of their annual reporting on the progress made in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and applying urban and housing indicators, as appropriate, and to submit these reports to the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

4. Requests the Executive Director to continue the support given to the efforts of member countries by collecting and disseminating information on successful country experiences in various aspects of shelter delivery;

5. Also requests the Executive Director to promote within available resources the provision of assistance, including training, on sustainable enabling policies and strategies and on practical ways and means of formulating, adopting and implementing them;

6. Further requests the Executive Director to submit a report on the implementation of the next phase of the Global Strategy to the Commission at its seventeenth session;

9/ HS/C/16/3.

10/ HS/C/16/3/Add.1.

11/ HS/C/16/3/Add.1, appendix.

7. Recommends to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, the adoption, at its fifty-second session, of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, in which it adopted the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and designated the Commission on Human Settlements as the United Nations intergovernmental body responsible for coordinating, evaluating and monitoring the Strategy, and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) as the lead agency for the Strategy,

"Noting that the conclusions of the mid-term review of the Strategy conducted by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) were incorporated into the Habitat Agenda,

"Having considered the fifth report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

"Noting with satisfaction the support given to the implementation of the Global Strategy by donor Governments, international bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

"1. Commends Governments that are already revising, consolidating, formulating or implementing their national shelter strategies based on the enabling principles of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 as elaborated in the Habitat Agenda;

"2. Urges Governments, in connection with the implementation of their Habitat II national plans of action, to adopt and/or strengthen integrated national shelter strategies based on the enabling approach and sustainable development;

"3. Also urges Governments to integrate fully the environmental dimension in the formulation and implementation of national shelter strategies, taking into account the relevant components of Agenda 21;

"4. Recommends that Governments extend the application of urban and housing indicators to cities and rural settlements for monitoring the progress of their national shelter strategy and the performance of the shelter sector, taking into account local conditions and sensitivity to gender considerations;

"5. Urges the international community to strengthen its support for national efforts to formulate and implement enabling shelter strategies in developing countries, as recommended in Agenda 21;

"6. Urges the organizations of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, and other multilateral and bilateral agencies, to provide, on the basis of an

approach consistent with the Global Strategy, increased financial and other support to Governments for achieving the objective of adequate shelter for all;

"7. Adopts the Plan of Action for the Global Strategy for the period 1998-1999, and urges Governments, relevant United Nations and private sector organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to prepare and implement their specific plans of action;

"8. Decides to subsume the sixth report of the Commission on Human Settlements to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter, as called for in General Assembly resolution 43/181, into the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, to be submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 51/177."

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16/2. Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the future role of the Commission on Human Settlements

The Commission on Human Settlements

Recommends to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Welcoming the outcome of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

"Bearing in mind its resolutions 2718 (XXV) of 15 December 1970, 3001 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974 and, in particular, resolution 32/162 (XXXI) of 19 December 1977, by which it decided that the Economic and Social Council should transform the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning into the Commission on Human Settlements,

"Taking into account its resolution 51/177 of 16 December 1996, on the implementation of the outcome of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), and resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996, on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

"I

"Framework for the functioning of the Commission

"Recalling that the General Assembly, in resolution 51/177 of 16 December 1996, decided that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions, including Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and 50/227 of 24 May 1996, and together with the Commission on Human Settlements, shall constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism to oversee the coordination of activities for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

"Convinced that the follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) will be undertaken on the basis of an integrated approach to human settlements development and within the framework of a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of the major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

"1. Reaffirms that the Commission on Human Settlements, as a standing committee of the Economic and Social Council, should have a central role in monitoring, within the United Nations system, the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and advising the Council thereon;

"2. Calls upon all the relevant United Nations organizations and specialized agencies to identify specific actions that they will undertake, within their mandates, towards the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, and invites them to inform the Administrative Committee on Coordination of their actions;

"3. Calls upon the programmes and funds of the United Nations system and the regional commissions, consistent with their respective mandates, to support fully the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, particularly at the field level, as appropriate;

"4. Invites the Bretton Woods institutions to consider how they might be actively involved in the implementation and the follow-up to the Conference, and enhance their cooperation with the United Nations system for that purpose;

"5. Decides, in view of the importance of non-governmental organizations and local authorities and the private sector and research organizations, in the promotion of human settlements development, that such organizations should be encouraged to participate in the work of the Commission, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 on the consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations;

"II

"Terms of reference

"6. Reaffirms the existing mandate of the Commission on Human Settlements as set out in Gene-al Assembly resolution 32/162 (XXXI) of 19 December 1977, while stressing the normative and catalytic character of the mandate;

"7. Reaffirms in particular the responsibility of the Commission to give overall policy guidance to and carry out supervision of the operations of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), including the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;

"8. Takes into account that the Commission should fulfil its mandate in line with paragraphs 222 to 225 of the Habitat Agenda and in harmony with recommendations made by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly chapter 7 of Agenda 21;

"9. Decides that the Commission, in fulfilling its mandate, shall assist the Economic and Social Council in monitoring, reviewing and assessing the progress made in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, inter alia, through the analysis of relevant inputs from Governments, local authorities and their associations, relevant non-governmental organizations and the private sector;

"10. Decides further that the Commission shall identify issues where system-wide coordination needs to be improved and modalities for promoting system-wide coordination, in order to assist the Council in its coordination function;

"III

"Structure of the agenda and work programme of the Commission

"11. Urges the Commission to adopt a multi-year work programme for a focused and thematic approach, culminating in an overall review and appraisal of the Habitat Agenda in the year 2001. The work programme will, inter alia, provide a framework to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and will be in line with the coordinated follow-up to conferences;

"12. Decides that the work of the Commission in relation to the programme of work shall be primarily focused on the relevant provisions of the Habitat Agenda, with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

"13. Decides that the agenda of the Commission on Human Settlements at its future sessions shall include the following substantive items, derived from Habitat II:

"(a) Consideration of issues identified in the multi-year programme of work;

"(b) Review of the relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the themes "Sustainable human settlements development" and "Adequate shelter for all";

"(c) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting human settlements development;

"14. Further decides that at its seventeenth and eighteenth sessions, the Commission will focus on monitoring the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and assessing its impact. The sessions will be structured around the four substantive areas of the Habitat Agenda, as follows:

"(a) Adequate shelter for all, incorporating also the monitoring of the Global Shelter Strategy;

"(b) Sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world, incorporating also the monitoring of chapter 7 of Agenda 21;

"(c) Capacity-building and institutional development;

"(d) International cooperation and coordination;

"15. Also decides that:

"(a) At its seventeenth session, in 1999, the Commission will address the above-mentioned substantive areas;

"(b) At its eighteenth session, in 2001, the Commission will focus on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly, if appropriate;

"(c) In 1998 and 2000 the Centre, will analyse the progress on national implementation status, organized around the four above-mentioned substantive areas, and prepare synthesized reports, to be submitted for consideration by the Commission at its seventeenth and eighteenth sessions;

"IV

"Documentation

"16. Requests that all United Nations documentation be kept concise, clear, analytical and timely, with a focus on relevant issues, and that to the greatest extent possible use be made of integrated reporting; that reports contain recommendations for action and indicate the actors; that reports be available in all official languages, in accordance with the rules of the United Nations; and that the use of other methods of reporting, such as oral reports, should also be explored;

"V

"Methods of work of the Commission

"17. Recognizes that the methods of work of the Commission should be revitalized, in order to improve the profile of the Commission and attract high-level political participation;

"18. Decides that preparation of thematic discussions in the Commission should be broadened by:

"(a) Inviting countries to contribute to preparation of the sessions through, for example, organizing seminars or expert panels on issues directly related to the themes that will be discussed at the session and to report thereon;

"(b) Involving local authorities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other partners in the preparatory phases of the sessions;

"19. Also decides that, during the sessions of the Commission, dialogues with major groups and panel discussions may be organized, the format of which as with all other agenda items should be decided upon at the preceding sessions of the Commission;

"20. Decides to consider organizing during future sessions of the Commission interactive high-level segments on key policy issues;

"VI

"Secretariat

"21. Urges the Secretary-General to ensure effective functioning of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in line with paragraph 232 of the Habitat Agenda so as to enable it fully to discharge its mandate and, serve as an efficient secretariat to the Commission, within which clear lines of responsibility are drawn, so as to facilitate the implementation of the follow-up to Habitat II and ensure close cooperation at the secretariat level between all United Nations entities involved in the follow-up;

"22. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to submit to future sessions of the Commission on Human Settlements a detailed report on the activities of the regional offices, with special attention to the status of implementation of their respective work programmes, elaborated for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in the region."

7 May 1997
9th meeting

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